For oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer-cakes,
And hold-fast is the only dog[6], my duck;
Therefore, *caveto* be thy counsellor[7].
Go, clear thy chrystals[8].—Yoke-fellows in arms,
Let us to France! like horse-leeches, my boys;
To suck, to suck, the very blood to suck!

BOY. And that is but unwholesome food, they say.

FIST. Touch her soft mouth, and march.

Again, in The Mastive, an ancient collection of epigrams:

« ~ — Susan, when she first bore sway,
" Had for one night a French crown, *pitch and pay* "

STEEVENS.

Old Tusser, in his description of Norwich, tells us it is

'* A *city trim*---
'* Where strangers well, may seeme to dwell,
" That *pitch and vaie.* or keepe their davе."

John Florio says, " *Pitch andpaie,* and go your **waie."**

One of the old laws of Blackwell-hall was* that "& *penny le paid* by the owner of every bale of cloth for *pitching.*[9] FARMER*

[6] And HOLD-FAST is the only DOG,] Alluding to the proverbial saying—" Brag is a good dog, but *holdfast* is a better."*

DOUCE*

[7] Therefore, CAVETO be thy counsellor,] The old quartos read:

*' Therefore *Cophetua* be thy counsellor."

STEEVENS.

The reading of the text is that of the folio.

MALONE.

[8] — clear thy CHRYSTALS.] *Dry thine eyes:* but I think It may better mean, in this place, *wash thy glasses.*

JOHNSON.

The first explanation is certainly the true one. So, in 'The Gentleman Usher, by Chapman, 1602 ;

" — an old wife's eye
" Is a blue *chrystal* full of sorcery."

Again, in A Match at Midnight, 1633 :

" ten thousand Cupids
" Methought, sat playing on that pair *ofcrystals!"*

Again, in The Double Marriage, by Beaumont and Fletcher :

« —~~ sleep, you sweet glasses,
" An everlasting slumber close those *chrystals!"*

Again, In Coriolanus, Act III. Sc. II. :

** *The glasses* of my sight'*

The old quartos, 1600 and 1608, read:

" Clear *up* thy chrystals.'* STEEVENS.